

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A push block device for displacing a workpiece relative to woodworking equipment, comprising:

a main body having a proximal end, a distal end, a longitudinal axis, and a first, generally flat working surface for engaging a top surface of a workpiece;

a handle component extending from said main body whereby when said first working surface is disposed in parallel facing relation to ~~a top~~ the top surface ~~of a~~ of the workpiece, said handle component is disposed predominantly vertically above said main body; and

a heel component extending from said main body so as to have a first, operative position, wherein said heel projects vertically below a first plane of said first working surface, and a second, stored position wherein a bottom edge of said heel is disposed in or vertically above said first plane, said heel defining a second working surface disposed in a second plane defined at an angle with respect to said first working surface, for selectively engaging a trailing end surface of the workpiece for displacing the workpiece.

2. (Original) A push block device according to claim 1, wherein the heel projects resiliently downwardly from said first plane so that when upward pressure is applied to said heel in a direction generally perpendicular to said first plane, said heel is displaced vertically with respect to said first plane.

3. (Original) A push block device according to claim 1, wherein the heel is separately formed and secured to the main body.

4. (Original) A push block device according to claim 1, wherein a heel receiving compartment is defined in said main body so that when said heel is deflected vertically with respect to said first working surface, said heel is received substantially entirely within said main body.

5. (Currently amended) A push block device according to claim 1, further comprising for displacing a workpiece relative to woodworking equipment, comprising:
a main body having a proximal end, a distal end, a longitudinal axis, and a first,
generally flat working surface;

a handle component extending from said main body whereby when said first
working surface is disposed in parallel facing relation to a top surface of a workpiece,
said handle component is disposed predominantly vertically above said main body;

a heel component extending from said main body so as to have a first, operative
position, wherein said heel projects vertically below a first plane of said first working
surface, and a second, stored position wherein a bottom edge of said heel is disposed
in or vertically above said first plane, said heel defining a second working surface
disposed in a second plane defined at an angle with respect to said first working
surface; and

at least one slip resistant pad secured to at least one of said first and second working surfaces.

6. (Original) A push block device according to claim 5, wherein said at least one pad is over molded to said at least one working surface.

7. (Original) A push block device according to claim 1, wherein said heel includes a head portion defining said second working surface, and first and second legs.

8. (Original) A push block device according to claim 7, wherein said first and second legs are secured to said main body.

9. (Original) A push block device according to claim 8, wherein said first and second legs include pins for being disposed in correspondingly sized and shaped receptacles in said main body.

10. (Original) A push block device according to claim 9, wherein said pins are glued to said receptacles.

11. (Original) A push block device according to claim 1, further comprising a retention plate for securing said retractable heel to said main body.

12. (Original) A push block device according to claim 11, further comprising at least one slip resistant pad over molded to said plate.

13. (Currently amended) A method for advancing a workpiece relative to woodworking equipment with a push block comprising:

providing a push block including a main body having a proximal end, a distal end, a longitudinal axis, and a first, generally flat working surface; a handle component extending from said main body whereby when said first working surface is disposed in parallel facing relation to a top surface of a workpiece, said handle component is disposed predominantly vertically above said main body; and a heel component extending from said main body so as to have a first, operative position, wherein said heel projects vertically below a first plane of said first working surface, and a second, stored position wherein a bottom edge of said heel is disposed in or vertically above said first plane, said heel defining a second working surface disposed in a second plane defined at an angle with respect to said first working surface;

engaging a top surface of the workpiece with said first working surface; and

advancing said workpiece with said push block at least partway past said
woodworking equipment while said woodworking equipment works upon said
workpiece.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 13, further comprising displacing said push block relative to said workpiece so that the pushblock overhangs a trailing end of the workpiece, and engaging said trailing end with said second working surface.

15. (New) A push block device according to claim 1, wherein said main body is comprised of leading and trailing halves, wherein said heel portion is defined in said trailing half and wherein said second working surface generally faces in a direction of said leading half and extends widthwise of said main body.

16. (New) A push block device according to claim 1, wherein said push block main body and handle are molded from a plastic material,

17. (New) A push block device according to claim 1, wherein said handle includes a grip portion spaced from said main body and a leg portion extending from said grip portion to said main body.

18. (New) A push block device according to claim 1, wherein said handle comprises a grip portion spaced from said main body and legs extending from adjacent each longitudinal end of said grip portion to said main body.